

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 05158 010443Z

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7884

INFO USMISSION NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

1. I HAD FIRST OPPORTUNITY APRIL 30 SINCE RECEIPT REFTTEL TO RAISE REFUGEE QUESTION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK. I TOLD HIM THAT, DESPITE AMERICAN EVACUATION AND FALL OF SAIGON, POSSIBILITY REFUGEES TURNING UP IN INDONESIA REMAINS. THIS IS TRAGEDY OF ENORMOUS PROPORTIONS AND US HOPES OTHER COUNTRIES WILL BE WILLING SHARE BURDEN.

2. MALIK SAID INDONESIA, WHILE ITS OWN SITUATION DID NOT PERMIT IT TO ENCOURAGE PERMANENT RESIDENTS, WOULD NOT REFUSE ADMISSION TO ANY REFUGEE. THEY HOPE REFUGEES COULD MOVE ON BUT THEY WOULD NOT PRESSURE THEM UNDULY. INDONESIA, TOO, RECOGNIZED GRAVE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM.

3. I SAID WE HOPED UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES COULD PLAY ROLE. WHILE THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATIVE HERE, IT MIGHT BE THAT NEW YORK COULD GIVE AUTHORITY TO UNDP TO HANDLE REFUGEE QUESTIONS FOR UNHCR. THIS
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PAGE 02 JAKART 05158 010443Z

SOMETIMES DONE. MALIK SAID HE APPRECIATED THIS AND

MIGHT LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY.

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM MALIK'S STATEMENT AND OTHER STATEMENTS, INDONESIA WILL TAKE BENIGN ATTITUDE TOWARD REFUGEES BUT WILL NOT ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAY AND UNLIKELY PROVIDE ANY FINANCIAL HELP. PROMPT ARRANGEMENT FOR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE WILL STILL BE IMPORTANT.
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